

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAF:KLMARSHALL:JZ

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ARA/CCA:LITTLE (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 217170

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING EXCERPTS ON CHILE

FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT STATE DEPARTMENT NOON
BRIEFING OCTOBER 2.

IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENT COMMENT ON SENATE
ACTION CUTTING OFF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHILE SPOKESMAN
REPLIED:

A: ON CHILE, WE BELIEVE THAT AMENDMENT IS UNDESIRABLE AND
HOPE IT WILL BE REMOVED AS THE LEGISLATION PROCEEDS THROUGH
THE CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS. I MIGHT SAY THAT THE LEVEL OF
ASSISTANCE THAT WAS RECOMMENDED FOR CHILE IS CONSISTENT
WITH THAT PROPOSED FOR OTHER NATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA.
WE FEEL THAT CONTINUED ASSISTANCE OF THIS NATURE TO CHILE
CONTRIBUTES TO THE STABILITY OF THE AREA. I WOULD NOTE
THAT THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY TAKEN POSITIVE
ACTIONS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA, AND WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH
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ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS OF INTENT BY THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT

TO MOVE FURTHER IN THIS DIRECTION SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.
THE CUTTING OFF OF ASSISTANCE WOULD BE HARMFUL TO THAT
OBJECTIVE.

IN RESPONSE TO QUERY ABOUT SIZE OF PROPOSED ASSISTANCE TO
CHILE SPOKESMAN REPLIED:

A: I THINK WHAT IS INVOLVED HERE IS MILITARY AID OF DOLS
12 MILLION.

Q: CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT THE POSITIVE ACTIONS
TAKEN BY THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA?

A: WELL, THERE HAVE BEEN PROMULGATED IN CHILE OFFICIAL
DECREES STANDING DOWN THE LEVEL OF THE PREVIOUS EMERGENCY
MEASURES THAT WERE IN EFFECT WHICH DID AFFECT HUMAN RIGHTS
IN CHILE. THERE HAVE BEEN RELEASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.
THERE MAY BE SOMETHING ELSE. I'D LIKE TO LOOK INTO IT A
LITTLE BIT MORE, THOUGH. BUT THESE HAVE BEEN, FROM THE
POINT OF VIEW OF THE MAINTENANCE AND OBSERVATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS IN CHILE, MOVEMENTS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION IN OUR
JUDGMENT. AND AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH
FREQUENTLY ON THE SUBJECT WITH THEM. MAW

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